WordStock
'Reliable' EPOS *for South Africa*

Ordinarily, if electrical power fails, or someone accidentally unplugs or switches off the server, the EPOS stations stop functioning because they need to pull item description data from the server, while sending sales transaction information to the server. *Reliable EPOS* is an optional WordStock program that keeps a store's EPOS stations operating if the main computer fails in any way.

 Reliable EPOS continually monitors the network to make sure all EPOS stations are communicating with Node 1, and offers two levels of protection:

1. Each EPOS station continually confirms communication between itself and the server; if it doesn't receive a reponse, it assumes that the main file manager has gone away and loads a local file manager.

2. If, for whatever reason, the local file manager fails to load, the program prompts the cashier to enter a Product code and selling price for each SKU entered.

Since WordStock updates register log files at the end of a sale, *Reliable EPOS* can still protect your data if the system breaks down in the middle of a transaction: all log records in the receipt will be tagged, as will additional sales rung in while the main server is not available.

Conversely, if the server connection is restored during a transaction, *Reliable EPOS* will update all sales information for that transaction.

At night, *Reliable EPOS* uses automatic, 'time-triggered' programs to copy files from Node 1 to all other nodes, to make sure everyone's synchronized and up-to-date. The utility looks for EPOS logs which have been tagged as "NOT UPDATED" in the various local EPOS databases and updates the global inventory, vendor, product, and section info.

NB: *This routine must be run daily to make sure that information is up-to-date.*

Please note that, because *Reliable EPOS* needs to log sales transactions locally whenever Node 1 is unavailable, each sales station must be a computer, i.e., must be a workstation with a processor and storage capacity.

Please contact Netsol, as show belown, for more information.

Key Terms

Node - With respect to 'Reliable POS' Node refers to a computer-based POS station that can operate independently if the network goes down.

Node 1 - the computer that acts as the main file server in a WordStock network.

File Manager - the program that controls files being opened, modified, and/or closed.

Procedural changes:

A new end-of-day procedure which must be run before printing the product summary report; it updates Inventory, Product, Section, and Vendor files.

At POS startup, you may get a message that says: "There is no price lookup available." Go to Node 1 and choose **Start the File Manager**.

You may have to boot a remote node from the hard drive if Node 1 has totally crashed and the remote node is off.

You need to stop local file managers before rebooting nodes other than 1.

Starting or Stopping the File Manager now brings up a submenu with choices for "ALL nodes" and each remote POS node.

View cash register receipts now brings up a submenu with the various POS server nodes.

System reset menu option can be run on a node other than Node 1. This will stop the local file managers only and perform a /bin/chkfsys on the local drive.

Export may use the archived POS database rather than active receipts.